



President Jordan and Smithsonian Undersecretary for American Museums and National Programs Sheila Burke sign an agreement between the Smithsonian and Gallaudet on the Deaf Way II International Arts Festival at a December 19 ceremony.

Gallaudet, Smithsonian enter partnership on Deaf Way II

The Smithsonian Institution and Gallaudet University have entered a cooperative relationship on the Deaf Way II International Arts Festival, ensuring the approximately 400 deaf visual artists and performers from more than 70 countries who will participate in DWII an enormous boost in their audience. Specifically, the agreement means that instead of the more than 5,000 people who will attend the July 8-13 event, approximately 200,000 individuals who visit Smithsonian venues will be exposed to the artistic talent of the deaf community during 2002.

President I. King Jordan and Smithsonian Undersecretary for American Museums and National Programs Sheila Burke signed the agreement in the Castle Library of the Smithsonian Building at a December 19 ceremony that was attended by DWII and Smithsonian officials. The partnership signals the Smithsonian's promise to participate in the festival and work with Gallaudet by planning programs, exhibitions, and publications related to deaf culture with an emphasis in the arts.

There are several confirmed engagements at Smithsonian venues for deaf artists and performers: Chuck Baird, DWII artist-in-residence and a consultant for the Deaf Way II Cultural Arts Committee, will exhibit paintings of zoo animals, incorporating the sign language symbol for each animal, at the National Zoo's Visitors Center from March through August. Paintings of animals by Argentinean artist Jorge Rajadell will be exhibited at the Zoo's Amazon Building in June and July. The acclaimed "History Through Deaf Eyes," an exhibition of nearly 200 years of U.S. history from the perspective of deaf people that has been touring the nation since March, will be at the Arts and Industries Building from

May 9 to September 10. The Latino Initiative Program will coordinate several public workshops, panel discussions, and demonstrations by deaf and hard of hearing Latino artists at the Arts and Industries Building. A porcelain exhibit by Eiichi Mitsui will be at the Sackler Gallery of Art from approximately June 30 to July 31. "Deaf Way II 4 Kids," theater performances by four performing groups, will be at the Discovery Theatre from July 9-13. And performers from China, Hong Kong, Japan, and India will take the stage at the Smithsonian's Folk Life Festival on July 6.

"This is a significant moment," said Tim McCarty, producer for DWII Cultural Arts Programs and president of Quest: arts for everyone. He thanked the Smithsonian staff "for its commitment and receptiveness to Deaf Way II," at the ceremony. Beth Ziebarth, Smithsonian accessibility coordinator, applauded the "mutually beneficial arrangement for two internationally renowned institutions" and said the agreement "holds tremendous potential." She said that the collaboration will offer the opportunity to "explore a culture many people haven't had the opportunity to see and understand." ...

"We are deeply grateful to the Smithsonian for this collaboration," said Dr. Jordan. He pointed to similarities between Gallaudet and the Smithsonian: both were founded about the same time, he said, and their older buildings are made from the same stone. In addition, "We are both educational and cultural institutions. To have this opportunity to partner is very, very important." Jordan also spoke of the benefit that the collaboration will bring in terms of expanding the base of people who will be present to appreciate the work of deaf artists and per-

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President Bush signs appropriation increase for Gallaudet

On January 10, President George W. Bush signed Gallaudet's appropriation bill for the 2002 Fiscal Year, which began on October 1, 2001. The University's final FY 2002 appropriation is \$96.938 million, an increase of more than \$7.5 million—or 8.4 percent above last year's appropriation of \$89.4 million.

About \$4 million of Gallaudet's budget increase is Congress' response to the University's request for additional funding for improved security. Congress also recognized Gallaudet's need to fund a 3 percent general pay increase for faculty and staff.

Up until the time that the bill was signed, the University operated on continuing resolutions (a total of eight) that funded Gallaudet and the Clerc Center at the same level as the appropriation received in FY 2001.

According to President Jordan, the anticipation of a tight budget situation initially led to a recommendation from the Bush administration that Gallaudet receive no increase in FY 2002. "The large increase that we eventually received is doubly appreciated," Dr. Jordan said. "We are very grateful to both the Congress and the administration for recognizing and supporting Gallaudet's needs at this critical time." **G**

Gallaudet student carries Olympic torch

Jill Johnston, a third-year graduate candidate from Des Moines, Iowa, who is pursuing a doctorate of audiology degree at Gallaudet, was selected by the U.S. Olympic Committee as a torchbearer on the relay that began December 4 in Atlanta, Ga., and will end February 4 in Salt Lake City, Utah, signaling the beginning of the 2002 winter Olympics.

Johnston, 24, carried the Olympic flame the afternoon of December 21 on the leg of its journey through the District of Columbia, on 7th Street, NW, from R to T streets. The following morning, she attended a White House ceremony for the D.C. metropolitan area torchbearers.

"This has been a huge honor for me," said Johnston, "but I don't think I'm any different than anyone else; I just lucked out." She explained that it was a brief but convincing essay by the person who nominated her, Sammie Young, a good friend who attends her church, Fairfax Church of Christ in Fairfax, Va., that impressed the nominating committee enough to select her.

Johnston also garnered praise from Cynthia Compton, an assistant professor in the Department of Audiology and Speech/Language Pathology, and her advisor in the Au.D. program. Compton described Johnston as "a beautiful, compassionate person who has overcome many obstacles in her life, including a



Jill Johnston holds aloft a replica of the Olympic torch that she carried December 21 when the torch came through Washington, D.C. on its 13,500-mile trek through 46 states.

kidney transplant earlier in her life and a severe sensorineural hearing loss. She is one of those rare people with a high emotional quotient that allows her to find the perfect balance between work and her private time."

Before enrolling at Gallaudet, Johnston graduated magna cum laude with a BA in communication disorders from Harding University, Searcy, Ark., where she was named to the National Dean's List and Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. Her goal after graduation is to work in the D.C. area, perhaps in a medical setting.

The torch run, presented by Chevrolet and Coca Cola, involves 3,505 individuals taking turns to carry the torch on its 13,500-mile trek through 46 states. **G**

Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center

Gallaudet University

Working for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children Throughout the United States

Clerc Center gets new look

The Clerc Center has a new logo to represent its programs, products, and services, and has reorganized and redesigned its Web pages.

The new design features the letters LCC embracing a yellow sun-like circle. The letters represent the name of the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center. Laurent Clerc, whose name is part of the Clerc Center identity, was a French deaf educator who helped build the foundation for many deaf schools in America. The circle conveys that the Clerc Center is a center for gathering, developing, and disseminating resources and information related to the education of deaf and hard of hearing students.

The new logo will be used on Clerc Center products and materials such as letterhead, business

cards, and on the recently revised Web site. It was designed by Ralph Fernandez, World Wide Web developer/designer for Gallaudet's Office of Public Relations.

"This particular logo was selected because it espouses the ideals of the Clerc Center and the work we do," said Dr. Katherine Jankowski, interim dean for the Clerc Center. "We are also pleased that the logo was designed by a deaf artist."

The Clerc Center's home page on the World Wide Web changed its look in mid-December. Among the changes are a new heading with the Clerc Center logo, a faster load time, an expanded site index, and the additions of "Quick Links," in the left-hand column, and "bread crumbs," a navigation feature at the top and bottom of each page. Clerc Center products

have also been organized by subject in the Information on Deafness listing (<http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/InfoToGo/index.html>) and the site is Bobby approved (accessible to individuals with disabilities).

"The Clerc Center's Web site is receiving over 100,000 hits a month from readers across the nation and around the world," said Phil Mackall, director of the Clerc Center's Information Systems and Computer Support. "This indicates to us that our readers want and need information and look to us to provide it. ... Our new design, with its focus on those readers, and our powerful search tool will make it easier for our readers to find relevant information and products more quickly and easily." 



Russian artist Galina Mazursky (right) presents one of her paintings, *Sea Kingdom*, to Dr. Katherine Jankowski, interim dean for the Clerc Center, on behalf of the Clerc Center. Also pictured is Svetlana Ushakova, the wife of Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the United States Yuri Ushakov.

Russian artist visits Clerc Center

By Jennifer Hinger

Paint, holy water, and paper are the materials, but in the hands of Russian artist Galina Mazursky, they are transformed into expressions of her soul.

Mazursky makes her paintings, which were on display at the Clerc Center from December 4 through 7, first by praying, then blending dry paint with holy water and applying the mixture to paper, using her hands. While she's been an artist all her life, Mazursky said her latest technique is just four years old.

Svetlana Ushakova, the wife of Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the United States Yuri Ushakov, was on campus for the opening of the art display on December 4 in the Star Gallery of the Model Secondary School for the Deaf (MSSD). Mazursky and Ushakova presented Dr. Katherine Jankowski, the Clerc Center's interim dean, with one of Mazursky's paintings, *Sea Kingdom*, on behalf of the Clerc Center. Ushakova described Mazursky's fluid and colorful work as "human art."

"Never mind the language, never mind where you were born, or what your age is, it's easy to understand," Ushakova said to a gathering of Kendall Demonstration Elementary School

(KDES), MSSD, and Gallaudet students, faculty, teachers, and staff. "One common thing we all have is art. It creates a common language."

The 48-year-old artist from Moscow plans to return to Gallaudet in April to conduct seminars with KDES, MSSD, and Gallaudet art students and to display her work. She plans to bring *The Pain*, a painting that she completed on September 11—even before she knew about the terrorist attacks—and when she received the news, she understood why she was feeling pain. Mazursky is also scheduled to return to campus in April 2003.

Mazursky was invited to Gallaudet after her paintings were viewed by Silvia Golocovsky, coordinator of the Clerc Center's International/Multicultural Student Services, and Dr. Nancy Pollock-Carroll, Academic Advising project director/People Soft Module, at the Russian Cultural Centre in Washington, D.C., last summer. 

ON THE GREEN

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98-342M

Workshop focuses on needs of adopted deaf and hard of hearing children



(From left): Nicole Alleman and Alison Handfinger, MSW students doing their internship at KDES, Dr. Judith Mounty, and Dr. Barbara White meet at the deaf adoption workshop.

Gallaudet hosted an all-day conference, "Raising, Educating, and Supporting Adopted Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children: A Developmental Perspective," on November 17. The conference was sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts, Sciences, and Technologies, the Department of Social Work, the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center, and the Gallaudet Research Institute's World Wings Endowment Fund.

Presentations and discussions focused on the needs and experiences of adopted deaf and hard of hearing children and their families at home, in the community, and at school. Two adoption specialists, Deb Riley and Marilyn Schoettle, from the Center for Adoption Support and Education in Silver Spring, Md., presented on the developmental aspects of


adoption through the eyes of children, and on the role of schools in enhancing adopted children's self esteem and academic success.

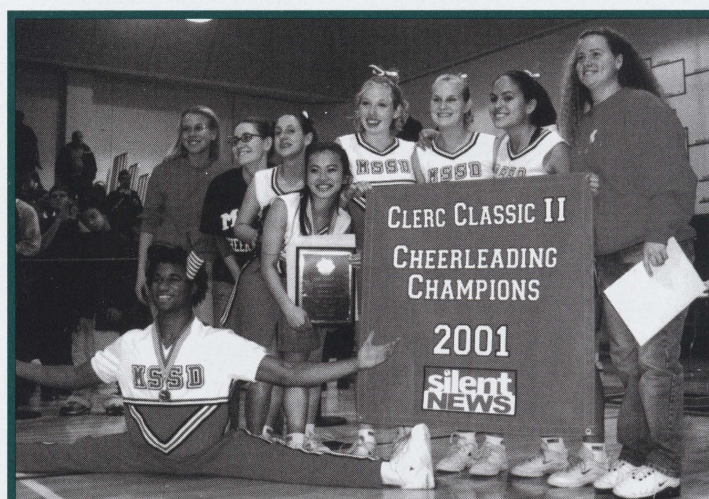
Beth Betman, school social worker at the Clerc Center, presented her perspectives on working with adopted children who are deaf in the school setting. Dr. Barbara White, chair of the Department of Social Work, presented on the history and advocacy efforts to bring awareness of adoption into the deaf community, and also on her research on deaf adoptive families.

There were breakout groups for professionals working with deaf people who want to learn more about adoption, and for adoptive parents who want more insight into raising adopted deaf children.

Finally, a panel of adult deaf adoptees shared their experiences and recommendations for

parents and professionals. The workshop was the idea of Dr. Judith Mounty, director of the Center for ASL Literacy, who is also doing an MSW internship with the Center for Adoption Support and Education. The workshop was the first step in what Mounty hopes will be the beginning of a collaborative effort to enhance understanding and support for adopted deaf and hard of hearing individuals and their families.

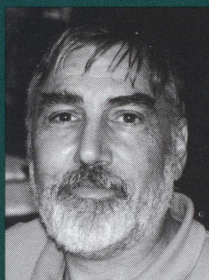
Jamie Berke, a Gallaudet graduate who founded the Deaf Adoption News Service web site (DANS), was given an award in recognition of her efforts to bring deaf and hard of hearing children and families together through adoption. 



MSSD hosted the second annual Clerc Classic basketball and cheerleading tournament December 6-8. Twelve deaf high school teams from around the United States participated. The MSSD men's basketball team and the cheerleading squad each won their tournaments. The Maryland School for the Deaf won the women's basketball tournament. Next year's Clerc Classic will be hosted by the California School for the Deaf-Fremont.

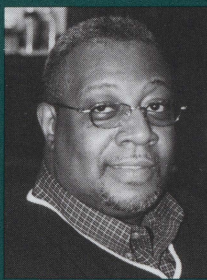
ROVING REPORTER

As members of the Staff Advisory Committee, what are your goals for SAC this year? What do you want to see accomplished by SAC?



Marc Schweitzer, electrician, Physical Plant:

To have more members of the campus community get involved with SAC. That is, share your concerns or joys.



Charles Bryant, safety technician, Transportation Department:

*1) To be more committed to ensure that I represent the staff with their questions and concerns.
2) That the SAC be a more visible entity on campus and to the staff who we serve.*



Marcia Schweitzer, social work field placement specialist, Social Work:

I would like to help Gallaudet create an environment where staff feel empowered to make recommendations for changes through rewards or incentives built into the duties we provide in cooperation with our status as exempt or non-exempt employees.



Sue Jacoby, coordinator of curriculum and instruction, MSSD:

I would like to see SAC improve communication among staff members at Gallaudet so that we can better address their needs and concerns.



ASK AUNT SOPHIE

Dear Aunt Sophie,

Did you happen to see the article in *The Washington Post* just before the holiday break in which psychology professor Robert "Skip" Williams was quoted? The story was about people who collect and use old-fashioned fountain pens, the kind that you have to fill up with ink. Here's what Dr. Williams said in the article when the reporter asked him why he loves fountain pens: "A shaft of sunlight floods the room and crosses my papers. As I write, I can see the tiny river of ink trailing behind the pen nib and then quickly dry-

ing. My office windowsill is filled with different colored glass bottles that also catch the sun in the morning. All that color just brightens my day."

FYI in HMB

Dear FYI,

Aunty is profoundly grateful to you for bringing this to her attention. Dr. Williams's soul-stirring remarks not only bespeaks his passionate fondness for fountain pens, they also instill in one a singular urgency to purchase a nibbed beauty for oneself. Indeed, the persuasive nature of his words is such that Aunty is relieved that the good professor was not also asked to declare his affection for Ferraris or racehorses!

MSSD Winter Dance Concert

A hip-hop tribute to dance, "Let the Rhythm Move Ya," will be the theme of MSSD's 20th Annual Winter Dance Concert, slated for February 21 at 10 a.m. and February 22 and 23 at 8 p.m. All performances will take place in Theatre Malz. The talented MSSD student/dancers will perform new works led by director/producer/choreographer Yola Rozynek (modern/emotional/hip-hop), assistant director/choreographer Troy Miles (trip-hop), and choreographers Irvine Stewart (jazz/funk), Angela Laguardia (Latin/hip-hop), Fred Beam (hip-hop), Alexandria Wailes (modern/hip-hop), Kelly Corrigan (funk/hip-hop), and Tyese Wright (African/hip-hop). Guest performances will be given by the National Deaf Dance Theatre, Eleanor Roosevelt Dance Company, Gallaudet Dance Company, Wild Zappers, and Def Nation. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens with I.D. MSSD students with I.D. will be admitted free. For more information, e-mail shirley.hampton@gallaudet.edu; to reserve tickets, e-mail justen.burns@gallaudet.edu, or phone x5407 (TTY), x5310 (Voice), or x5403 (Fax).



Director of Enrollment Services Astrid Goodstein talks with freshmen students at a pizza party sponsored by the Admissions Office and the Office of Alumni Relations on Study Day December 10. The party was held to congratulate the class on a successful semester and wish them luck on their visits back home for the semester break.

AMONG OURSELVES

AV Video Multimedia Producer has named **Sandy White**, senior producer/writer in the Department of Television and Media Production Services, to its 2001 Top 100 list of individuals "who represent the best producers in our business," according to the November 1 issue of the magazine. The article also stated, "Producers like those in the Top 100 have raised the standard for non-entertainment media." Producers in the Top 100 are nominated from peers and clients who they feel exemplify the highest standards in the industry, and the editorial staff makes the selections. White produced two DVD's last year—one about the deaf community, which will be exhibited in the "History Through Deaf Eyes" exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution's Arts and Industries Building from May 9 to September 10, and an interactive DVD for first-year students. She is currently working on several projects for students that involve interactive multimedia, and will develop a program to be used worldwide by Gallaudet recruiters.

Darrell Johnson, multimedia production specialist in the Department of Television and Media Production, was awarded the Crystal

Award of Excellence in the Multi-Media/Internet category, a top honor in The Communicator Awards' 2001 Video Competition. The honor went to Johnson for his work on "Who Wants to be Somebody," a website on recruitment for the Office of Enrollment Services. A press release from The Communicator Awards states that the awards is an international competition recognizing outstanding work in the communications field. Of the 3,301 entries from the United States and 11 other countries last year, about 12 percent won Awards of Excellence, which are "presented to those entrants whose ability to communicate elevates them among the best in the field."

An article in the January 16 issue of *USA Today* titled, "Glove Lends the Deaf a Hand," quotes **Judy Harkins**, director of the Technology Access Program. The article talks about an invention by a 17-year-old, Ryan Patterson of Grand Junction, Colo., who has invented a computerized glove that translates fingerspelling sign language into lines of text. Harkins is quoted as saying, while Patterson's project is "very clever" and "converting finger-

spelling into text is phenomenal," it's only one piece of a complex puzzle for the deaf community. "It does not address how [deaf and hard of hearing people] receive information, so it's one-way communication." Also quoted in the article is alumnus **Cary Barbin**: "If the technology could extend to American Sign Language, I know people would embrace it."

An article in the January 21 issue of *The Washington Times* titled, "Language of the Deaf," quotes **Jean Gordon**, assessment specialist and evaluator at the Center for ASL Literacy. The article talks about deaf people using sign language worldwide, and the popularity of sign language classes in public high schools. Gordon was interviewed based on her teaching fellowship in Thailand over five months in 1999-2000. "It was a challenge for me," said Gordon, who had to use Thai Sign Language instead of American Sign Language. "They had a variety of facial expressions. Their culture is different. When fingerspelling, they use 72 different letters, when we only have 26 different letters."

Smithsonian partnership

continued from page 1

formers. "Instead of thousands of people, there will be hundreds of thousands," he said.

Burke said that she, on behalf of the Smithsonian, was "delighted to formalize participation with Gallaudet for Deaf Way II." She pointed to a growing tradition of collaboration that the Smithsonian has with Gallaudet, such as a similar arrangement with the first Deaf Way in 1989, an intern program with MSSD, and involvement with the Gallaudet Young Scholars Program. She said that the Smithsonian has relied on Gallaudet as it improves its accessibility. The agreement with the University for DWII "helps the Smithsonian to extend outreach to the deaf community and showcase arts in the deaf community. ... The Deaf Way II program really gives us and our 40 million visitors a year an opportunity to appreciate and understand the deaf community." 

YSP students to build classic race car



Applied engineering students in the Young Scholars Program will build this Factory Five replica of the 1965 Shelby 427 Cobra roadster this summer.

Students who are aspiring engineers will have the chance this summer to develop their skills by building a fully-operational replica of one of the most legendary cars in the history of automotive racing—a 1965 Shelby Cobra 427 Roadster.

The project will be undertaken June 23 to July 20 through the Young Scholars Program's "Applied Engineering" course, led by William Millios, an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. Topics related to engineering will be applied to building

the kit car, which comes with a 350-horsepower, 302 cubic inch Ford Mustang 5.0 engine.

During the third week of the four-week program, the car will be moved to the D.C. Convention Center floor so that attendees of Deaf Way II can witness the YSP students' work. Once it is completed, the Cobra will be sold. According to Millios, YSP would like to have a buyer work with the program to determine the various options (interior color, wheel selection, paint and body work, engine upgrades, etc.) as the project develops.

The YSP program is for high school freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. YSP's "Applied Engineering" course is looking for high school freshmen, sophomore, and juniors with good math and science skills, and an interest in engineering to work on the project. For more information, e-mail Millios at bill.millios@gallaudet.edu.

New, continuing, and outgoing Staff Advisory Committee members pose with President Jordan following a January 17 meeting. Shown (from left) are: seated—Patricia McCoy (outgoing), Stephany Galich (continuing), Denise Larue (continuing), Marcia Schweitzer (new), and Beverly Hollrah (chair, continuing); standing—Sue Hotto (continuing), James Lee (vice-chair, continuing), Susan Jacoby (new), President Jordan, Agnes Muse (outgoing), Marc Schweitzer (secretary, continuing), Rosa Mann (new), Charles Bryant (continuing), and Ricky Suiter (outgoing).



WHAT'S HAPPENING... AND WHEN

February

2-Women's Basketball vs. Catholic, 2 p.m.

2-Men's Basketball vs. Catholic, 4 p.m.

4-Men's Basketball vs. Western Maryland College, 7:30 p.m.

6-Women's Basketball vs. York College, 6 p.m.

6-Men's Basketball vs. York College, 8 p.m.

Upcoming:

March 16-17-"Becoming a Certified Professional Interpreter: A Workshop for (hearing) codas," presented by GIS interpreters Tom Bull and Mary Thumann. The workshop, which is sponsored by the Gallaudet Sign Language and Interpreter Education Program, will cover a broad range of topics, including voicing when English is a second language, preparation for the certification process, and experiences in interpreting. For more information, e-mail beverly.hollrah@gallaudet.edu or call x6056.



Special Assistant to the President for Institutional Affairs Bette Martin presents Sue Russell, administrative assistant for institutional affairs in the President's Office, her 25-year service award on January 16.

NOTES FROM PERSONNEL

Service awards for November:

Five years:

Rock Lemery, cashier, Bookstore; **Steven Walker**, interpreter III, Gallaudet Interpreting Service

Ten years:

Steven Doleac, co-curricular specialist, Laurent Clerc Center; **Donna James**, assistant teacher, Child Development Center, Laurent Clerc Center; **David Sanders**, custodian, Physical Plant; **Barbara Thompson**, custodian, Physical Plant

Twenty years:

Thelma Duren, bus monitor, Transportation

Twenty-five years:

Yvonne Green, administrative assistant, Information Technology Services; **John Casey**, finisher I, Maintenance Services, Physical Plant

New employees hired in November:

Jeremy Curtis, junior user support technician, Technical System Services; **Arlene Garcia**, residential educator, Residence Education, Laurent Clerc Center; **Melinda Harrison**, residential educator, Residence Education, Laurent Clerc Center; **Ben Hoshina**, residential educator,

Residence Education, Laurent Clerc Center; **Thomas Lehner**, director, Facilities Maintenance and Operations, Physical Plant, Custodial Services, Central Supply, Utilities and Engineering; **Erin Murphy**, admissions counselor, Program Manager, Laurent Clerc Center; **Lisa Pershan**, teacher/researcher, Grades 1, 2, 3, Laurent Clerc Center; **Tracy Reins**, staff residential assistant, Residence Life, Laurent Clerc Center; **John Riordan**, residential night assistant, Residence Education, Laurent Clerc Center; **Leo Yates**, interpreter II, Gallaudet Interpreting Service

Promotions in November:

Patricia Shaffner, coordinator of recruitment, Admissions

Retirement in November:

Jean Buchanan, Physical Education and Recreation

Service awards for December:

Five years:

Lori Rolnick, occupational therapist, Laurent Clerc Center

Ten years:

Ronald Emerson, residential night assistant, Residence Education, Laurent Clerc Center; **Clarence Fletcher**, telecommunications specialist, TV and Media Production Services; **Rala Stone**,

speech/language pathologist, Audiology; **David VanBoxlaere**, residential educator, Residence Education, Laurent Clerc Center

Fifteen years:

Philip Bogan, art teacher/research, Laurent Clerc Center

Twenty years:

Michael Olson, archives technician, Library

New employees hired in December:

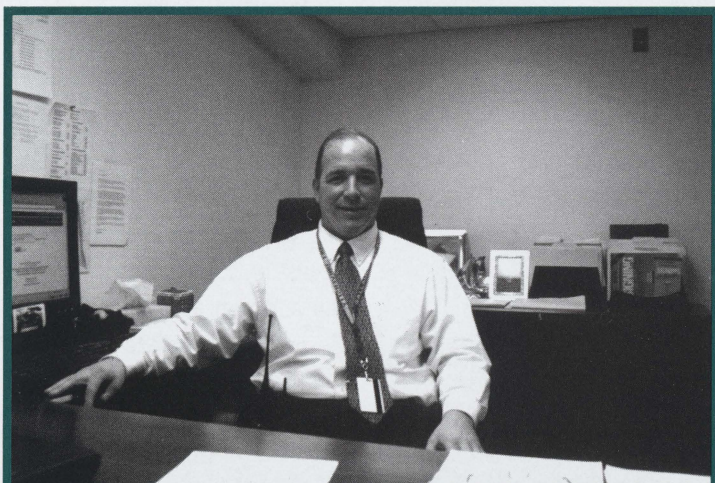
Wendy Grande, executive secretary, Physical Plant Administration; **Robin Johnson**, residential educator, Education Laurent Clerc Center; **Jeff Magee**, telecommunications technician, Telecommunications Services; **Senda Benaissa**, research associate, Pulitzer Memorial Research; **Allison Turner**, administrative secretary I, Financial Aid

Promotions in December:

James Johnson, assistant director for annual giving, Development Office; **Lana Lewis**, technical and operations specialist, Safety and Security; **Chrissy Moreno**, residential educator, Residence Education, Laurent Clerc Center



Carlene Thumann-Prezioso, a research associate in the Graduate School and Research, is congratulated for 20 years of service to the University by Dr. Carol Erting, a professor in the Department of Education and director of the Signs of Literacy project, and Dr. Michael Karchmer, director of the Gallaudet Research Institute.



Thomas Lehner, new director of facilities maintenance and operations in the Physical Plant Department, Custodial Services, Central Supply, and Utilities and Engineering, began his duties in November.